

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FY-75 IV PROGRAM

REF A BUJUMBURA 753, B. STATE 25949; C. BUJUMBURA 75; D. STATE 24408;

E. STATE 44619:

1. FATHER GABRIEL BARAKANA, RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BUJUMBURA, WHOSE FULL FOREIGN LEADER GRANT (\$3100) WAS SUBMITTED AND APPROVED IN REFTELS A AND B, HAS INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE THE TRIP IN MAY 75 AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED. UNIVERSITY EDUCATIONAL REFORM PROBLEMS AS WELL AS VISITING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE DELEGATIONS PREVENT EARLY DEPARTURE. HE BELIEVES THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO GO IN THE FALL, AND POST PLANS TO RESCHEDULE HIS VISIT FOR OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER.

2. AS SUBSTITUTION FOR FATHER BARAKANA THIS FISCAL YEAR, POST WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE PASCAL KASHIRAHAMWE, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF BURUNDI. HE WILL BE FREE TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S. FOR FOUR WEEKS STARTING MAY 15. PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WOULD BE TO OBSERVE AND CONSULT ON BANKING, COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, TECHNICAL EDUCATION, ESPECIALLY AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL, AND SMALL SCALE AGRICULTURE.

3. BIO SUMMARY: KASHIRAHAMWE IS APPROACHING 40. AFTER COMPLETING HIGH SCHOOL, HE HAD FOUR YEARS OF ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING IN THE MID-1950'S AT THE BELGIAN COLONIAL SCHOOL

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FOR RWANDESE AND BURUNDI STUDENTS, GROUPS SCOLAIRE ASTRIDA,

AT BUTARE, RWANDA. SINCE THEN HE HAS BEEN GROOMED FOR AND RISEN THROUGH THE RANKS TO THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF BURUNDI. AS PART OF HIS PREPARATION IN THE BANKING FIELD, HE UNDERWENT SIX MONTHS TRAINING WITH THE BANK OF AMERICA IN SAN FRANCISCO IN 1964-65, SINCE THAT BANK HAS A PARTIAL FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE COMMERCIAL BANK. AS A BANKER HE HAS WIDE BUSINESS CONNECTIONS HERE AND ABROAD AND HE IS A VERY CLOSE CONFIDANT OF PRESIDENT MICOMBERO WHO IS HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW. HE TRAVELS TO EUROPE TWICE A YEAR AND HAS ALSO VISITED SEVERAL ARAB COUNTRIES WITH MICOMBERO. HE HAS APPROACHED THE PRESIDENT ON THIS LEADER GRANT, AND THE LATTER HAS GIVEN IT HIS STRONG ENDORSEMENT.

4. PERSONALITY: KASHIRAHAMWE IS RELATIVELY STRAIGHT-FORWARD AND OUTGOING FOR A MURUNDI. HE PRIDES HIMSELF ON HIS OWN ACHIEVEMENTS (WHICH STARTED BEFORE MICOMBERO'S ASCENT TO THE PRESIDENCY), AND HE MIXES EASILY WITH EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS. THOUGH HE ENJOYS GOOD MATERIAL THINGS AND GOOD TIMES, HE IS QUITE HARD WORKING AND HARD DRIVING. HE HAS EXTREMELY FOND MEMORIES OF HIS HALF-YEAR IN AMERICA, BUT HE ALSO WILL NOT HESITATE TO SPEAK OUT CRITICALLY ABOUT THE U.S. IF HE THINKS IT NECESSARY. HE IS POORLY INFORMED ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY AND NON AFRICAN POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND HAS HIS SHARE OF ANTI-COLONIALIST AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST MYTHS AND SLOGANS. HOWEVER, HE IS VERY BRIGHT, LEARNS QUICKLY, SHOWS INITIATIVE IN BUSINESS, AND IS VERY ANXIOUS TO HELP HIS COUNTRY PROGRESS.

5. LANGUAGE: KASHIRAHAMWE'S KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH APPEARS TO BE AT THE S-3/R-4 LEVEL. SINCE HE HAS NOT USED HIS ENGLISH ACTIVELY OR FREQUENTLY IN RECENT YEARS, WE WOULD RECOMMEND A FRENCH INTERPRETER-TRAVEL COMPANION ON THE TRIP TO MAKE SURE THAT HE GAINS FULLEST BENEFIT. HOWEVER, WE HELD A 20 MINUTE TALK WITH HIM IN COLLOQUIAL ENGLISH WITHOUT ANY DIFFICULTY, AND IF THERE IS ANY PROBLEM IN GETTING AN INTERPRETER ESCORT, HE CAN CERTAINLY GET ALONG WITH HIS ENGLISH.

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6. FOR USE OF REMAINING \$3705 IN OUR FY-75 BUDGET FOR IV'S, POST HAS INFORMALLY APPROACHED BERNARD BIZINDAVYI, MINISTER OF ORIENTATION AND NATIONAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE UPRONA PARTY (SEE REFTEL C) BUT HAS NOT RECEIVED RESPONSE YET. IN VIEW DEADLINE MENTIONED REFTEL E, WE ARE SEEKING VERIFICATION THIS POSSIBILITY ASAP.
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